

## HAMMAGUIR MISSILE TEST CENTER, NORTH AFRICA

### INTRODUCTION

The Hammaguir Missile Test Center is on the Hammada du Guir (a barren and rocky plateau) near the southeastern corner of Morocco and approximately 62.5 nautical miles (nm) southwest of Colomb Bechar, Algeria (Figure 1). This is within the disputed border region between Algeria and Morocco. The center contains an airfield capable of handling large aircraft, a support base, two launch areas\*, an interferometer, a bell-shaped instrumentation

pattern, an unidentified complex, and several unidentified areas. The main portion of the rangehead is served by a well-constructed macadam road system. The center was first observed on KEYHOLE photography of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Detailed analysis was limited by nonstereo coverage, a gap between the frames of the photography, poor image quality, and drifting sand.

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### HAMMAGUIR AIRFIELD

Hammaguir Airfield, at approximately 30-51N 03-04W, is about 62.5 nm southwest of Colomb Bechar, Algeria. Only the western portion of the airfield which includes part of a main runway and a second smaller runway is covered by photography. Both runways appear to be of macadam construction. The visible portion of the main runway exceeds 8,700 feet in length, is approximately 160 feet in width, and is oriented on a magnetic azimuth of 90/270

degrees. 1/ A possible concrete threshold, approximately 650 feet in length, is at the western end of the runway. A second runway, approximately 5,900 feet long and approximately 100 feet wide, is oriented on a magnetic azimuth of 70/250 degrees. No structures, aircraft, or vehicles were discernible within the visible portion of the airfield in [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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### SUPPORT BASE

The Support Base (Figure 2) is approximately 1.5 nm northeast of Hammaguir Airfield

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and apparently provides local support for the center. It is a fence-enclosed area, approximately 2,200 by 1,700 feet. Within the base are approximately 18 possible barracks and approximately 25 unidentified structures.

**Declassification Review by NIMA / DoD**

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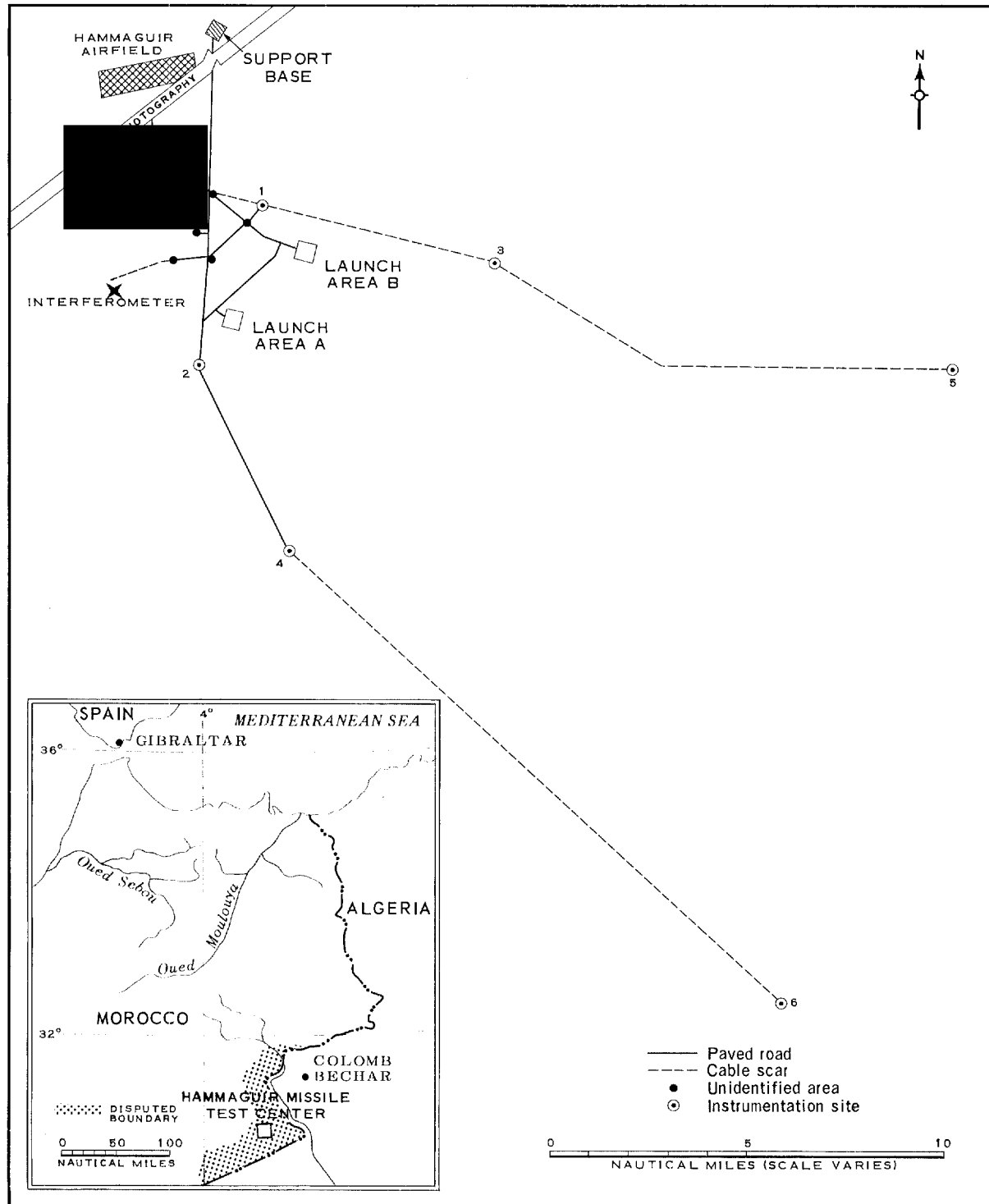


FIGURE 1. HAMMAGUIR MISSILE TEST CENTER, NORTH AFRICA.

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### LAUNCH AREAS A AND B

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Launch Area A and Launch Area B were identified in [REDACTED]. The two areas, which are approximately 2.5 nm apart, do not appear to have the same configuration. Both areas are interconnected to the

major components of the center by a system of apparently well-constructed macadam roads approximately 20 feet wide, which have turning radii of approximately 80 feet.



FIGURE 2. SUPPORT BASE, [REDACTED]

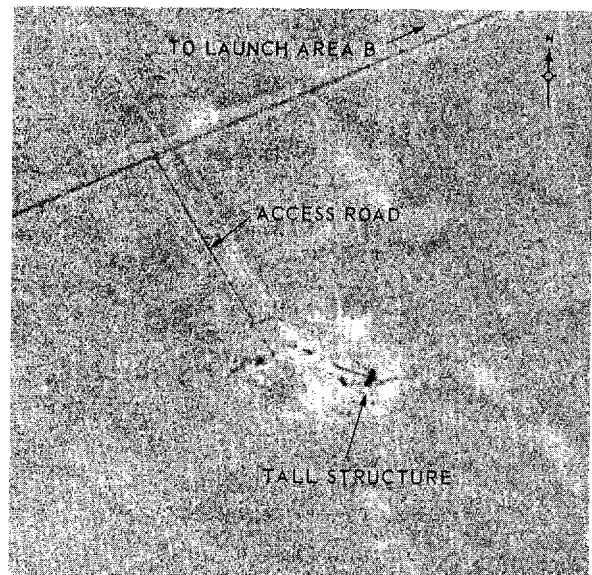


FIGURE 3. LAUNCH AREA A, [REDACTED]

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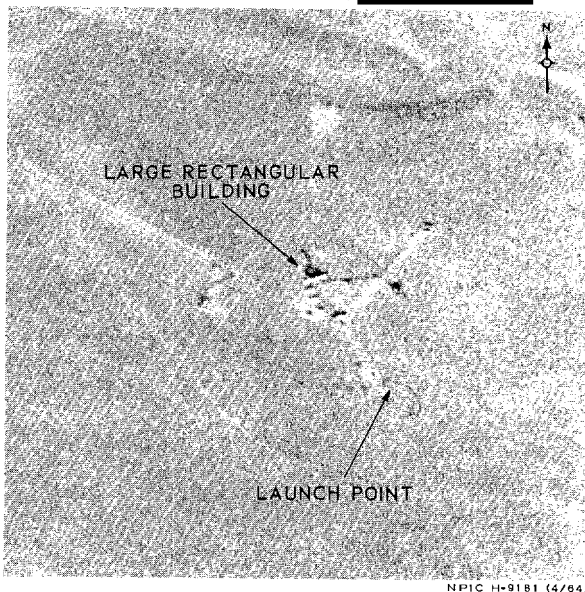


FIGURE 4. LAUNCH AREA B, [REDACTED]

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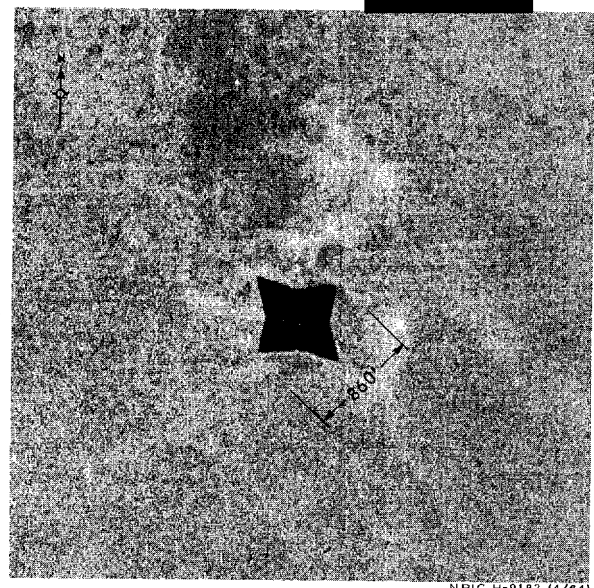


FIGURE 5. INTERFEROMETER, [REDACTED]

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#### LAUNCH AREA A

Launch Area A is approximately 6 nm south of the airfield (Figure 3). In the eastern portion of this area is a tall structure which is associated with the launch point. Several additional unidentified structures are in the launch area.

#### LAUNCH AREA B

Launch Area B is approximately 2.5 nm northeast of the Launch Area A and approxi-

mately 4.5 nm south-southeast of the airfield (Figure 4). The access road enters the possibly fenced area and divides to form a wye pattern. Near the terminus of the southern leg of the wye is a launch point, and an unidentified structure is at the terminus of the northeast leg of the wye. A large rectangular building and several unidentified structures are at the intersection of the two legs of the wye.

### INSTRUMENTATION FACILITIES

An interferometer (Figure 5), built on a macadam foundation, is approximately 5 nm south-southwest of the airfield and approximately 2.0 nm west-northwest of Launch Area A. The axes are oriented in a northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast direction, and are each approximately 860 feet in length. The obliquity of the photography has distorted the image of

the equal-sided interferometer in Figure 5.

Six other sites are connected by cable scars to form a bell-shaped instrumentation pattern which extends downrange from the launch areas approximately 18 nm on an azimuth of 125 degrees (Figure 1). Instrumentation Site 1, the northernmost of these sites (Figure 6), is approximately 3.5 nm south-southeast of the air-

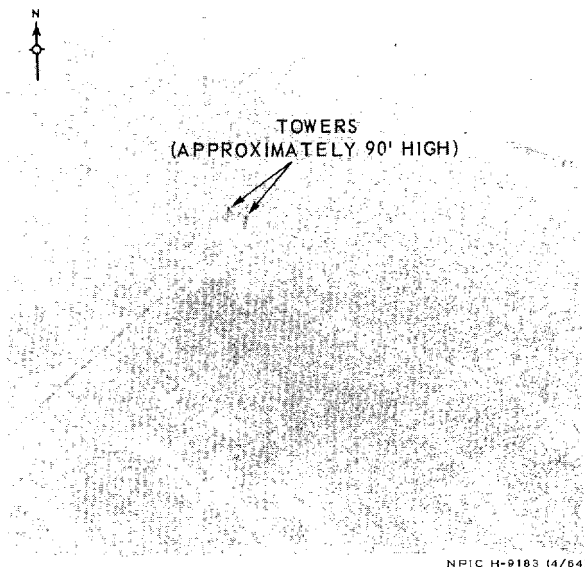


FIGURE 6. INSTRUMENTATION SITE 1

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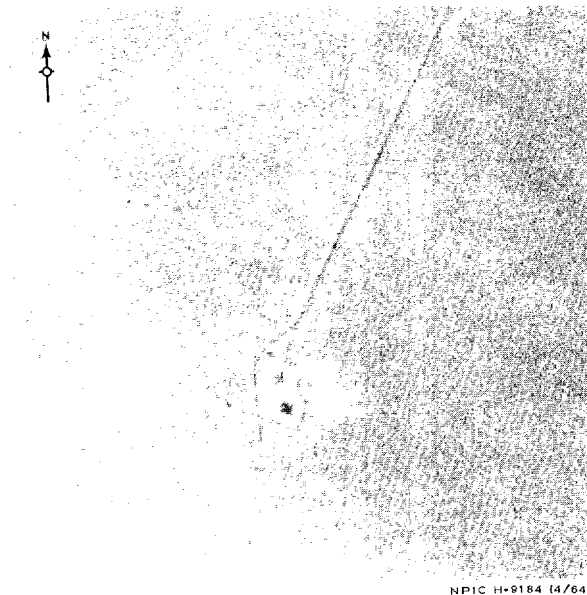


FIGURE 7. INSTRUMENTATION SITE 2,

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field and contains two towers approximately 90 feet high. Instrumentation Site 2 (Figure 7), approximately 7 nm south of the airfield, is the first site of the southern leg of the bell-shaped instrumentation pattern. The four remaining downrange sites, 3, 4, 5, and 6, are all similar

in configuration and are composed of three in-line structures, each approximately 40 by 20 feet (Figure 8). Some vehicle tracks and cable scars are visible in the downrange portion of this instrumentation pattern.

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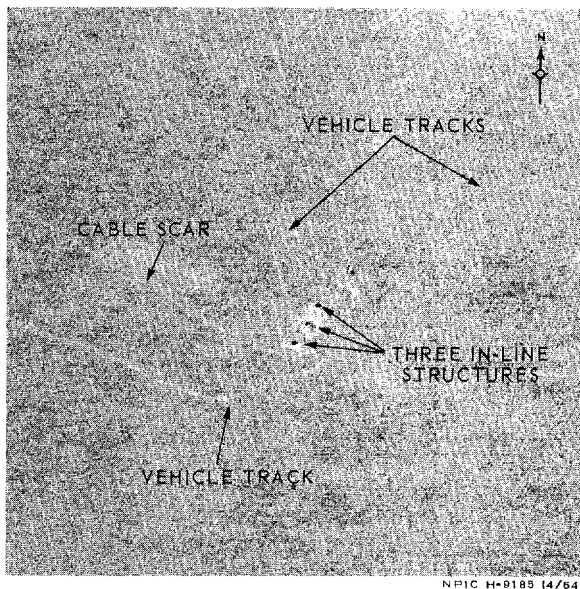
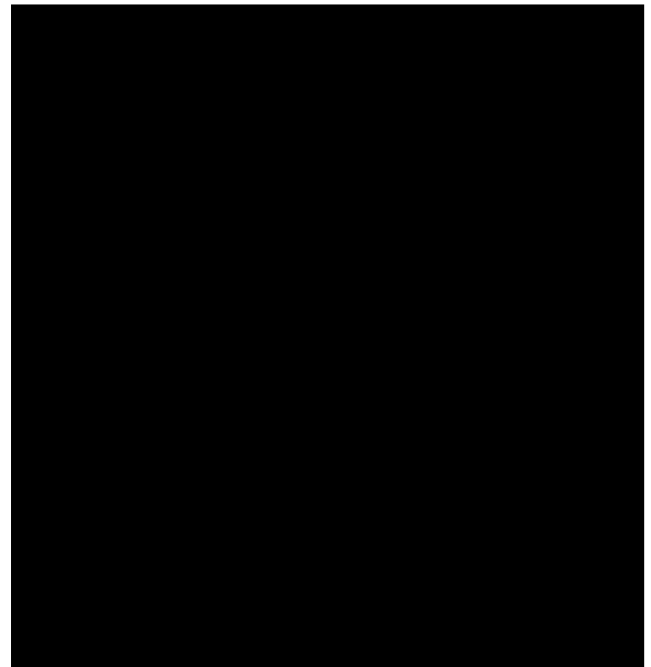
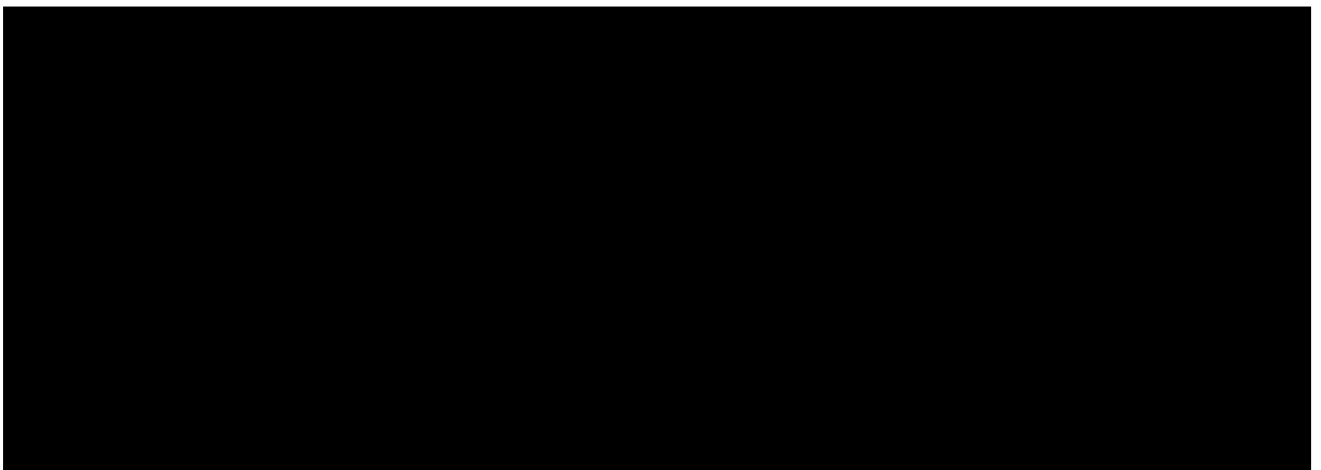


FIGURE 8. TYPICAL DOWNRANGE INSTRUMENTATION SITE (SITE 6), [REDACTED]

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#### REFERENCES

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

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#### MAPS OR CHARTS

1. AMS. Series P-502, NH30-6, 2d ed, scale 1:250,000 (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)
2. AMS. Series P-502, NH30-7, 3d ed, scale 1:250,000 (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)
3. ACIC. WAC 453, 9th ed, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

#### DOCUMENT

1. ACIC. *Airfields and Seaplane Stations of the World*, v. 17, Algeria, p. 91-92, info date Jun 62 (SECRET)

#### REQUIREMENT

NPIC. PC-18-64

#### NPIC PROJECT

N-21/64

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

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CIA



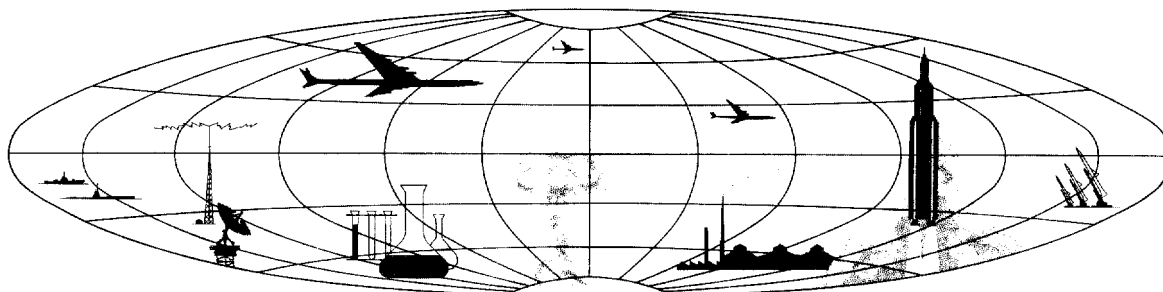
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